

CITY OF MIAMI SEA LEVEL RISE COMMITTEE

Miami City Hall
Commission Chambers
350 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

December 17, 2015

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APPEARANCES :

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT :

- WAYNE PATHMAN, Chair
- TABITHA CALE, Vice Chair
- PETE GOMEZ
- JAMES MURLEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT :

- REINALDO BORGES
- DAVID MARTIN
- JOSE REGALADO

CITY STAFF :

- AJANI STEWART, LIAISON
- MATTHEW S. HABER, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

ALSO PRESENT :

- HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk of Courts
- SUSANNE TORRIENTE, Chief Resiliency
Officer/Assistant Manager, City of Miami Beach

1 THEREUPON:

2 (Meeting Commences.)

3 (First minutes of audio not captured.)

4 MR. GOMEZ: I'm Pete Gomez, the City's
5 Emergency Management --

6 MR. MURLEY: Jim Murley, resident.

7 VICE CHAIR CALE: Tabitha Cale, Audubon,
8 Florida.

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: And there are a couple of
10 members that are excused this evening because they
11 are out of town for the holiday.

12 First of all, thank you, everybody, for
13 coming. Although we don't have as a big turnout,
14 so far, tonight as we've had in our prior two
15 meetings. We do have some very interesting
16 speakers this evening: Harvey Ruvlin, the Clerk of
17 the Court, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner,
18 who is going to report on the initiatives
19 undertaken by Miami-Dade County.

20 And we also have with us, later, joining us
21 this evening will be Susanne Torriente, the new
22 Resiliency Coordinator and Assistant Manager for
23 the City of Miami Beach.

24 First order of business is the adoption of the
25 minutes from the November 9th meeting.

1 This is them and I've read every single page
2 thoroughly.

3 So, I'd like to have a motion to adopt the
4 meeting -- the minutes of the meeting from November
5 9th.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I make a motion that we
7 adopt them.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: Second.

9 VICE CHAIR CALE: I'll second.

10 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. All of those in favor
11 of adopting the minutes from the last meeting say
12 aye.

13 (Thereupon, responses were in the
14 affirmative.)

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: The motion passes and the
16 minutes are adopted.

17 The next issue, tonight, is the staff report
18 from city administration. So Ajani, if you could
19 address us on the issues that we have previously
20 discussed under item number 3, please?

21 MR. HABER: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Matthew Haber. I'm an Assistant City Attorney.

23 The first item that we're going to talk about
24 -- At the last City Commission meeting, on December
25 10th, the City Commission issued a resolution

1 declaring its support for the EPA's Clean Power
2 Plan.

3 This is a federal rule that would limit the
4 amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted by
5 power plants in the United States. And, in
6 addition, the city amended its participation in the
7 Green Corridor Pace Program, which allows city
8 residents to finance improvements to their homes,
9 be it for storm hardening or for alternative energy
10 and for conservation measures and they extended
11 that to include historic areas of the city.

12 CHAIR PATHMAN: Matt, I have a question on
13 that and it's something we're going to take up
14 later about our mandate.

15 How can we review or look at that issue and
16 how it could effect, locally, the City of Miami?

17 What do you recommend in terms of --

18 Obviously, it's a very comprehensive act. I'm
19 somewhat familiar with it.

20 But, what are the point that you think we
21 should be, as a committee, maybe, looking at or
22 digesting, maybe, on a future agenda or workshop,
23 et cetera?

24 MR. HABER: For Pace or the Clean Power Plan?

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: Both.

1 MR. HABER: Both. Oh. It's pretty simple.
2 We can simply talk about the resolutions as they
3 are being drafted.

4 I'm the one who drafted both of them.

5 And so, if the committee has input, as things
6 are put on the commission agenda, if you're meeting
7 ahead of that, you can certainly talk about it at a
8 duly noticed meeting.

9 If it's after the commission has ruled on
10 something, it can become part of the agenda here or
11 if you want to amend or expand a program or, you
12 know, address further changes you'd like to see.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: Is there anything currently
14 that's going to be coming before the commission
15 before our next meeting that is of --

16 MR. HABER: For --

17 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- any urgency or a concern?

18 MR. HABER: For the next January meeting,
19 Commissioner Hardemon -- At the last commission
20 meeting -- So again, same meeting, December 10th.
21 -- during the discussion on the dais, Commissioner
22 Hardemon issued a directive that we present
23 legislation to them that would expand the Pace
24 district to all residents of the City of Miami and
25 not just the historic districts or folks who live

1 in D-2 (District 2)and D-4 (District 4).

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: Very well. I think that's a
3 good suggestion.

4 Does anybody have any comments from the
5 committee? Jim, I know you're somewhat familiar
6 with it.

7 MR. MURLEY: Well, I live in D-4 and I have
8 actually had a vendor come by and talk through the
9 particular arrangement that exists right now under
10 the -- as I understand it, the Pace Program. That
11 was about six -- three months ago.

12 And, as a resident, I thought it was great
13 that we had the opportunity. We haven't pursued
14 it. But, I think it makes sense that it's open --

15 Because, it's not available for solar. But,
16 it's available for strengthening your house against
17 storms.

18 MR. HABER: Right. I mean it could be for
19 shutters or it could be, you know, better
20 insulation or anything that could affect your
21 energy bill, really.

22 CHAIR PATHMAN: And I think it's an important
23 issue that, you know, even though it's under our
24 administrative staff report, I would like to, as a
25 committee, you know, make a resolution that we

1 support the initiative of Commissioner Hardemon to
2 expand the Pace districts to all citizens.

3 Does anybody else have any comment or agree?

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I agree. We should.

5 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. So, if someone -- And
6 this just, really, a recommendation in support of
7 that from our committee.

8 So, if anybody would like to make a motion
9 that we take that action, that we support the --
10 Commissioner Hardemon's proposal.

11 VICE CHAIR CALE: Sure. I'd like to make a
12 motion that we formally endorse Commissioner
13 Hardemon proposal to expand the Pace district
14 throughout the City of Miami.

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And, I second it.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. All those in favor vote
17 by saying aye.

18 (Thereupon, responses were in the affirmative.)

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: All of those opposed? No
20 abstentions? Seeing none, our recommendation
21 passes.

22 MR. GOMEZ: Just one quick question,
23 Mr. Chair. Can you send us the information on
24 both, the power plant information or legislation
25 and on the Pace district?

1 Send it to me so we can start -- At least, I
2 can start reading on it.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Absolutely.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you.

5 CHAIR PATHMAN: Ajani, if you could just make
6 note. I'd like those two items to be, also,
7 touched on at the upcoming workshop that we're
8 going to plan, hopefully, this evening, for the
9 future, for the committee.

10 MR. STEWART: Yes.

11 CHAIR PATHMAN: And then, our last item is the
12 100 Resilient Cities Grant Application.

13 MR. STEWART: Sure. I think everyone is
14 pretty --

15 Sorry. This is Ajani Stewart, City of Miami.

16 I think everyone here is pretty familiar with
17 the 100 Resilient Cities Grant Application.

18 But, just quickly, it's a collaborative grant
19 application between Miami-Dade County, Miami Beach
20 and the City of Miami to the Rockefeller Funding
21 100 Resilient Cities Program.

22 It's designed to help cities or in this case a
23 metropolitan area become more resilient to
24 physical, social and economic challenges faced and
25 prepare the communities with how to deal with these

1 everyday stresses and, especially, with shocks that
2 accentuate these stresses.

3 The goals of the program or -- is to fund
4 Chief Resiliency Officer positions, to have the
5 support and resources of the 100 Resilient Cities
6 network and to have assistance in developing a
7 resilience strategy.

8 In terms of updates, I've spoken with the
9 Miami foundation who is helping to coordinate --
10 who coordinated this application for us and we
11 don't expect to hear anything until April.

12 CHAIR PATHMAN: Ajani, is this the first real
13 collaborative effort between the two sites; Miami
14 Beach, Miami and the County as far as you're aware?

15 MR. STEWART: No. I mean we've collaborated
16 on several other initiatives. But, I think coming
17 together like this to put through a grant
18 application, as far as I know, is unprecedented.

19 MR. MURLEY: I would certainly compliment the
20 city's participation. And the fact that the two
21 cities and the county did it together is important
22 and I think it, probably, dramatically improved our
23 chances to get designated.

24 And -- It was a great -- Just the process of
25 the staff working with the Miami foundation.

1 So have we distributed the application?

2 MR. STEWART: No. But, I have the --

3 MR. MURLEY: That's probably Mr. -- I'm sure
4 there's something --

5 MR. STEWART: I can do that.

6 MR. MURLEY: -- you can do and we could talk
7 about it at the workshop; because, there is some
8 really good information in the application.

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: I agree. Maybe that's also
10 something we can put down to just, generally,
11 review at the workshop.

12 MR. STEWART: Sure.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: But, I'd also like to say
14 that, you know, I think it's -- our committee is, I
15 think, empowered with the idea of getting the whole
16 community to work together.

17 I think we'll hear a little bit about that,
18 tonight, from Harvey Ruvin.

19 But, I think, no city can go this alone. You
20 know, the project -- The issues with the sea level
21 rise are so massive and they effect the entire
22 community that it's good to see that, already, that
23 initiative is starting.

24 So, I think it's great that the application
25 was filed.

1 Okay.

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Wayne?

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Yes. I'm sorry Tabitha. I
4 didn't see you.

5 VICE CHAIR CALE: I just wanted to ask when
6 the deadline is the grant application -- like when
7 decisions with be made. If there is some room in
8 the time line if we wanted to write, maybe, a
9 formal letter of support for the grant application
10 or if there is anything we, as a committee, might
11 be able to do to help support the application or is
12 the deadline already passed for --

13 MR. STEWART: Yeah, it's --

14 VICE CHAIR CALE: -- those materials.

15 MR. STEWART: -- passed and the final
16 application has been submitted. So, --

17 VICE CHAIR CALE: Okay.

18 MR. STEWART: -- right now we're --

19 VICE CHAIR CALE: And when is the decision
20 expected to be made?

21 MR. STEWART: Around April --

22 VICE CHAIR CALE: Okay.

23 MR. STEWART: -- was what I was told.

24 VICE CHAIR CALE: Thank you.

25 MR. STEWART: Okay.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chair, can I make a point of
2 order --

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Yes.

4 MS. GOMEZ: -- because we mentioned that this
5 is the first time we've had any collaboration
6 between the city and the county?

7 I just want to make sure that everybody
8 understands, we -- in my world, in the homeland
9 security world, we collaborate with the county and
10 all of the other cities a lot with the UASI (Urban
11 Area Security Initiative) Grant and State Homeland
12 Security Grant Program.

13 So, there is a -- this collaboration all the
14 way from Key West -- from Key West up to Palm
15 Beach.

16 I just wanted to put that on the record that
17 we do have a lot of collaboration with these other
18 entities.

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: No. I never intended to imply
20 that there isn't any. But, that this is a great
21 start on -- as it relates to sea level rise.

22 MR. GOMEZ: Oh, absolutely.

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: Members of the committee, if I
24 have my back turned to you use the microphone to
25 say, you know, Wayne or Chair, I'd like to say

1 something; because, I don't want to miss anybody if
2 they're raising their hands. Okay?

3 So, please, let's use the microphones.

4 Just moving right along --

5 Is that is Ajani as far as -- Matt, is that
6 your report?

7 MR. HABER: Yes.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Thank you very much.

9 MR. STEWART: Yes.

10 CHAIR PATHMAN: The last meeting and the
11 meeting before that, actually, we talked about the
12 issue of mapping of flood vulnerable areas in the
13 city.

14 Ajani, I think you've been speaking with staff
15 and we've been making some headway as far as that's
16 concerned?

17 MR. STEWART: Yes. I've received some maps
18 from the fire department -- from fire, mapping
19 vulnerable assets in flood prone areas.

20 I haven't had a chance yet to put that
21 together in a package for the committee; but, I'll
22 do so as soon as I can.

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Jim?

24 MR. MURLEY: Yeah. Ajani, you might check in
25 with the county's water and sewer department.

1 They've -- They're engaged in a county-wide
2 which, I think, includes the cities, in this case,
3 to upgrade and -- They hired CH2M Hill (phonetic).

4 And, I happened to have been in a meeting this
5 afternoon and they have done some really extensive
6 mapping.

7 I don't think it was limited to the
8 unincorporated. I think it's the entire area. So,
9 it's sea level rise, storm surge and high tide
10 together. So you can see some really interesting
11 vulnerability.

12 Not that the other maps aren't good. But,
13 just one more than you can look at.

14 MR. STEWART: No. Definitely.

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: I'm not sure if all of the
16 committee members are aware; but, we -- or I have
17 an obligation to do an annual report to the
18 commission in January and this is one of the things
19 that I'd like to discuss at our workshop, to
20 suggest to the city that we, you know, looked at
21 the mapping and we have, you know, put this in some
22 order as -- Pete, I think as you had suggested, I
23 think, at our very first meeting of the idea -- and
24 Tabitha, about mapping and emergency areas.

25 And this is something that, maybe, we want to

1 focus in on in our recommendation to the city as to
2 what are priority areas.

3 So it's something I really want to, you know,
4 further discuss and hope that we'll all, you know,
5 weight in on the issue at our workshop in order to
6 be able to make a, you know, very good
7 recommendation in our annual report to the
8 commission.

9 And this, I think, is a good stepping stone --
10 a good first start as to -- almost like a triage at
11 to what are the areas that are most impacted today.

12 Does anybody else have any comments on the --
13 on mapping or flood?

14 Anybody from the audience wish to say anything
15 on mapping or flood areas or flood prone areas?

16 Okay. Moving right along.

17 The next item from old business is about
18 engaging city administration and department
19 directors.

20 I've been working with Ajani on setting up
21 individual meetings where I can meet with all of
22 the department heads; Public Works, City Manager's
23 Office, City Attorney's office and, ultimately, all
24 of the commissioners to try to let them understand
25 what we're doing here and what our goal is and

1 also, you know, what do the envision this committee
2 to do, other than the resolution that we have in
3 front of you tonight that we're going to discuss
4 later, as to what our mandate is.

5 I think that's really important. I hope to
6 have not all of the meetings done; but, a number of
7 them, before our workshop so I can report back to
8 you along with staff as to, you know, what it is
9 that we're going to be doing up here and how we're
10 going to do it.

11 Does anybody have any comments on that issue
12 or any suggestions?

13 Okay. Seeing none from the committee, we'll
14 move right along.

15 I'm going to table the new business issue for
16 now and bring that up later this evening so we can
17 get right to Harvey Ruvin's presentation -- our
18 very fine City Clerk and former Commissioner of
19 Miami-Dade County and long time friend of mine and
20 I'm sure of almost everybody in this room.

21 Harvey, welcome. It's a pleasure and we
22 really appreciate your being here.

23 So, please go ahead.

24 (Thereupon, Mr. Ruvin's beginning remarks were not
25 captured due to his not being by a microphone.)

1 MR. RUVIN: -- old Keds or something back in
2 the old days when your dad had the only sporting
3 goods store on Miami Beach.

4 You've come a long way, Wayne, and I know that
5 you have been a very strong advocate for paying
6 attention to this issue for quite some time.

7 I know you visited with officials in Miami
8 Beach when they went to the Netherlands to see what
9 was happening there and you and I talked -- and I'm
10 delighted to see that the city has created this
11 task force and appointed you to head it up. I
12 think that's really great.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: Thank you, Harvey.

14 MR. RUVIN: You have a very distinguished
15 group here. I have worked with Jim Murley for a
16 few decades and have enormous respect for him.

17 You know, I sense that there is a real level
18 of seriousness that you're addressing the issue
19 with; and, of course, that's what is needed.

20 This, probably, is the long-term most
21 significant issue that our generation, my son's
22 generation, are going to be facing. The future of
23 the planet is really at stake here.

24 So what I've done is given you each a copy of
25 this report. All you have is the report and the

1 recommendations. I'm going to also send you the
2 twenty pages of appendix that accompany this. I
3 just didn't want to lug it all here and burden you
4 with it at this time.

5 But, basically, this task force deals with
6 this issue and if you look at the report it's
7 rather concise. It really boils down to about six
8 recommendations. One major recommendation and a
9 series of other recommendations based upon some
10 significant testimony that we took.

11 We met for well over a year. We heard from a
12 range of entities -- all of the players from the
13 water management district, the Corps of Engineers.
14 Many other experts came and spoke to us. And, we
15 developed a real understanding of just who is out
16 there and what players need to be brought to the
17 table to, really, have a coordinated, committed
18 approach to this issue.

19 What your Chair said before about this having
20 to be a multi-agency or multi-municipal and,
21 really, state and federal effort, is so true.

22 Obviously, climate and all of its impacts have
23 very little response for territorial boundaries and
24 we're looking at, basically, a basin here that's a
25 four county basin.

1 Miami-Dade County's history here on this issue
2 goes back some time.

3 We -- Miami-Dade County was one of the
4 founding entities for creating an international
5 organization of local governments called the
6 International Council for Local Environmental
7 Initiatives that was created in 1990 and has played
8 an enormous role in bringing about our awareness
9 that local government is whether these solutions
10 have to come from and have to be employed.

11 It's that ground level that sustainability
12 either happens or doesn't happen and I would tell
13 you, just as an aside to being with, that ICLEI
14 (International Council for Local Environmental
15 Initiatives) has been at all the COPS (Conferences
16 of the Parties).

17 The most recent one, of course, is in Paris.

18 I have been privileged to attend nine of them
19 myself.

20 And, our role at these meetings is semi-
21 official of the United Nations as repre -- as
22 designated, by that organization, as the entity to
23 represent the stakeholder interest of local
24 authorities globally at all of these meetings.

25 We left Paris with some really good work

1 because one of the things that we were able to do
2 is to get language in the twenty-seven page
3 document that emerged that focused on national
4 government's responsibility to fund and to build
5 capacity at the local level.

6 I'll get back to that before I conclude.

7 But, basically, the report details some of the
8 recommen -- some of the testimony that we got over
9 that year.

10 Probably the most dramatic and the most
11 impactful of all of the presentations that we had
12 was from Swiss Re. And, what that did was it
13 brought this issue, which so many people kind of
14 deferred as a future issue -- We don't really have
15 to worry about it now because this is going to
16 happen thirty, fifty -- predictions are always
17 couched in fifty and a hundred year segments.

18 But, when the insurance -- After the
19 re-insurance industry spoke to us everybody in that
20 room realized that there was an immediacy to this
21 issue.

22 Basically, the re-insurance industry's report
23 and testimony to us was a) they could no longer
24 rely on historic data to set rates or assess risk.

25 The little video that you sent me earlier

1 today had the Mayor of, I think, L.A. (Los Angeles)
2 saying that they've had 400 year storms this year.

3 So, obviously, if you don't have historic data
4 what are you going to use to set rates and the
5 answer was predictive data. And, the predictions
6 are out there and some of them -- you know, I'm
7 sure you're aware of. Some of them are very
8 draconian. There are people out there that I think
9 have very little faith in the adaptive capacity of
10 -- of the human race and are saying we ought to
11 just all move.

12 That's, I hope, not going to be scenario that
13 you recommend or that you believe is the right
14 path.

15 There is, clearly, enough time --

16 With commitment and the right approach we can
17 adapt in a way that will change us. But, we become
18 better.

19 And, clearly, when you look at the history of
20 South Florida, the whole idea of sea level and how
21 it relates to land and development is something in
22 our history. So, we've got a lot of history to
23 rely on.

24 So, -- Just, sort of, skipping through the
25 report, one of the things that's detailed in the

1 report is to look at this planning horizon of, say,
2 to 2050/2060 and to see what kind of community we
3 would have if we do nothing.

4 In a not necessarily worst case scenario; but,
5 in a Category 1 hurricane, at high tide, with
6 surge, what are we going to see?

7 Well, if you factor in sea level rise of two
8 feet you see that the whole county is inundated
9 because it isn't just -- this is not just an issue
10 that relates to wealthy people living along
11 Biscayne Bay or Collins Avenue. It's the entire
12 county because of substrata being so porous.

13 So, that certainly the challenge and,
14 probably, our Achilles heel that we've got to make
15 that we can deal with; because, as salt water
16 proceeds through our county we're going to see the
17 potential of infecting our water supply with it.

18 And, in viewing our agricultural lands, which
19 is the source of most of the winter fresh fruits
20 and vegetables for our country, seeing those soils
21 become saline really endangers that whole industry.

22 Recently we've seen how inundation in a bad
23 rain situation -- a bad rain cycle -- what that
24 does to our agricultural lands.

25 So, that's a part of it that shouldn't be

1 missed.

2 So, after hearing all of this, the major
3 recommendation that emerged and one that I think is
4 -- everyone should key on is that we're going to
5 need, because of the huge change that this is going
6 mean over time, is to re-invent -- to actually
7 re-engineer our entire infrastructure county-wide.

8 And when I say county-wide, I really shouldn't
9 stop there; because, one of the things that we have
10 in place that is -- that really is a very big
11 support to the whole effort is the Southeast
12 Florida Regional Compact -- Climate Compact which
13 was formed, what, six or seven years ago and has
14 been quietly doing work.

15 All four county commissions have passed
16 resolutions agreeing to collaborate.

17 That kind of super structure, here, is needed
18 because, clearly, the resources that are going to
19 be required are so enormous that we need that kind
20 of inclusiveness.

21 There may be only one other area in the
22 country that's done any kind of organization that
23 relates even close to what we've done here and that
24 would be the Bay Area in San Francisco that has
25 also looked at this as a multi-level and multi-

1 jurisdictional approach.

2 So, the first recommendation then was to
3 recommend that the county government undertake that
4 kind of a massive effort to build a robust capital
5 plan that, eventually, will go the public which
6 will include all of the elements that a pallet of
7 experts which are now being assembled will conclude
8 are needed.

9 It may be desalinization plants. There,
10 certainly, are going to be saline fixtures in the
11 system that are going to be there to try to trap
12 the water coming across.

13 There are massive changes in the water changes
14 in the water and sewer system already underway.

15 The whole drainage system has to be re-done.
16 Roads have to be raised. Our building codes have
17 to be --

18 This is -- This is a mouthful. This more than
19 a mouthful. This is a huge challenge. But, it's
20 one that we can do and we can meet.

21 So, that's the first recommendation.

22 And, I'm very happy to say all of the
23 recommendations were adopted unanimously by the
24 county commission and went forward to the Mayor who
25 is aboard on the issue of sea level rise. He's

1 very strongly aboard. He's made some public --
2 participated in some public meeting out on the west
3 coast and elsewhere with other urban mayors which
4 show that he's now taken on that issue as a major
5 issue for his administration.

6 And to really make it --

7 CHAIR PATHMAN: I have a question for you --

8 MR. RUVIN: Sure.

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- on something you just said.

10 Has the county considered or did your report
11 consider the time line to implement all of these
12 infrastructure changes dealing with --

13 MR. RUVIN: Yes.

14 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- sewer and water? And, what
15 were the costs? What's the estimated costs?

16 MR. RUVIN: I'm going to get to that.

17 There isn't any estimated cost yet because we
18 don't have the list of elements yet.

19 One of the efforts will be to develop what the
20 plan will be and, of course, as a part of that will
21 be a price tag for each element.

22 The time line, clearly, is -- you know, as our
23 future unfolds towards this 2050/2060 planning
24 horizon that the task force, sort of, set for
25 itself, that's the time line.

1 And, what's really interesting about this is
2 that it's going to have to be sequenced. Each
3 piece is going to have to be very carefully
4 sequenced.

5 Say, for instance, a desalinization plant.
6 Well that has to get triggered when we have
7 reasonable confidence that we're going to need it,
8 that the salt water has proceeded towards the
9 aquifer and that the amount of time it's going to
10 take to hit the aquifer we're going to need to use
11 to design, to plan, to site and to build a
12 desalinization plant. That could take five, six or
13 more years.

14 So all of the elements have to be not only
15 decided upon; but, the sequencing of them has to
16 be.

17 As far as the amount and the cost of this,
18 I'll skip to that.

19 We know that, for instance, New York is,
20 basically, doing not much more than pump stations
21 is looking at 20 billion dollars.

22 Your -- Mr. Murley has been involved in that
23 development there so he knows that figure very
24 clearly.

25 Ours will be considerable more.

1 We're looking at a much wider and much more
2 expansive area for looking at the four county
3 region.

4 So, we may be looking, you know, at numbers
5 that we've never heard or discussed before over
6 that time. It may be 50 billion dollars; maybe
7 more.

8 So one of the things that's not in this plan,
9 that I've proposed recently and that I'm going to
10 share with you -- a copy of -- is to try to get in
11 place a federal participatory tool.

12 I've called it a Federal Resiliency
13 Partnership Fund.

14 And I've, basically, described -- It would,
15 basically, be funded from a general fund of the
16 federal government as FEMA (Federal Emergency
17 Management Agency) is.

18 And, it would be -- It would be something
19 where the federal government would then be able to
20 use that money to partner with local governments
21 like Miami and Miami-Dade County that in the
22 forefront of developing adaptive solutions.

23 And the value -- the investment value for the
24 federal government is clear; because, if we can
25 develop success models here in South Florida they

1 can be duplicated and used and deployed all across
2 the coastline of the United States.

3 So, there is real value in using our
4 groundbreaking work to develop solutions elsewhere
5 as well.

6 Secondly, it's clear that the nation's
7 infrastructure needs re-invention, regardless of
8 sea level rise.

9 So, if we need that let's use this as the
10 trigger to get that started.

11 And lastly, another point justifying this kind
12 of a fund would be that if we don't do it then, in
13 the back end, FEMA is going to have to pay out for
14 the damages.

15 So, let's go in first.

16 We've got -- I've gotten a little resiliency
17 so far. There is little response so far.

18 The National League of Cities, about three
19 weeks ago, heard this proposal and voted
20 unanimously, at their board meeting, to include it
21 in their priority list as has ICLEI U.S.A (United
22 States of America). That's the organization I
23 referred to before.

24 The National Association of Counties will be
25 taking up the issue in November and we'll really

1 going to organize a massive lobbying effort to get
2 the Congress to act on this so that when we finally
3 do -- when Jim Murley finally develops his plan and
4 we have a price tag, we're going to be able to go
5 to the voters saying that the federal government is
6 a partner. And, hopefully, there will be enough
7 realization at the state level that the state can
8 be a partner as well.

9 I'm going to conclude my comments just by
10 running a few of the last recommendations.

11 County is -- You know -- One recommendation
12 deals with the county's lobbying effort on
13 Everglades restoration and that's an important
14 thing I think you ought to look at even though the
15 Everglades is far from the City of Miami, although
16 driving down Bayshore Drive you can see the bluffs
17 and the old formation there.

18 A healthy restored Everglades is a barrier to
19 sea level rise. Those headwaters can help us
20 enormously.

21 So one of the recommendations from the task
22 force was to fortify the county's lobbying effort
23 there.

24 Another recommendation dealt with something
25 called adaptation areas.

1 Adaptation areas were put into the process by
2 the legislature, what, three sessions ago and it
3 is, basically, meant to be a tool in the master
4 planning to allow you to phase what you're doing to
5 prevent sea level rise or to meet sea level rise,
6 to mitigate it, and to use the tool of
7 establishing, through a master plan and process,
8 areas that you would use it for and set aside for
9 adaptation purpose.

10 One of the things the county has since 1990 is
11 the EDL Program, the Environmentally Dangerous
12 Lands Program established by a voter's referendum
13 in 1990 that created a fund and that locally we've
14 acquired thousands of acres of land; some of which
15 could be used as adaptation area resources.

16 So, a lot of pieces are in place to move
17 forward.

18 From an organizational standpoint we have the
19 Compact. We have the City of Miami Beach taken
20 pro-active steps.

21 I'm delighted, Wayne, that you were able to
22 convince the City of Miami to join this effort as
23 well. So your collaboration is important.

24 The county, I believe now, as I started to
25 say, with the hiring of Jim Murley as their

1 Sustainability Director, with the clear assignment
2 of managing this process to develop a plan, that
3 we're under way.

4 And, you know, I call this the most
5 significant issue that we're ever going to face and
6 it certainly is an urgent issue. But, I want, if I
7 can, project optimism.

8 I really feel that we can do this.

9 This is not the most -- This is not an
10 impossible task. People don't have to give up
11 their homes and move to North Carolina.

12 We can have a future here in South Florida and
13 continue to be a vibrant world capital and continue
14 to be proud of ourselves as we grow forward.

15 But, it will take commitment; unprecedented
16 commitment. But, it's something that the future
17 generations are going to look back and judge all of
18 us on, whether we took that commitment and whether
19 we preserved the future.

20 So, I recommend your reading the report. I'm
21 also going to pass out some copies of the proposal
22 for the Resiliency Partnership Fund.

23 Perhaps that could be part of your
24 recommendation for the city -- for the City to
25 develop a lobbying effort there, to join the

1 lobbying effort.

2 There is a group forming already that they
3 could become a part of.

4 I'll pass this out to you as well.

5 CHAIR. PATHMAN: Thank you.

6 MR. RUVIN: I briefly mentioned the issue of
7 insurance, you know, because I think that does give
8 it an immediacy and is a reasonable way of spurring
9 action here.

10 We're starting, already to see all of our
11 insurance rates -- our flood insurance, et cetera
12 -- escalate tremendously.

13 What they, basically, told us was that if we
14 didn't have a plan -- Since the predictive data
15 says that we're going to be under water if we don't
16 do anything, they're saying to us that we'll be
17 uninsurable and all of the dreams, all of the
18 building, all the future dreams will be for naught
19 unless we have a plan -- unless we demonstrate --
20 Believe me, Swiss Re, Munich Re and all the
21 re-insurance industries do not want to lose South
22 Florida as a market.

23 So, if we can show -- And, you know, the
24 thought is, I think -- And, Jim has already made
25 contacts with Swiss Re and people there to bring

1 them into the process so that they have ownership,
2 so that they see that the City of Miami, the City
3 of Miami Beach and other entities are part of it
4 and that it will be a comprehensive plan.

5 That will have enormous benefit in terms of
6 what insurance rates are going to be in the future.

7 So let me close by saying it's really been a
8 great experience for me to be involved in this
9 issue and I know it will be for you as well;
10 something that you will feel good about.

11 So if you have any questions I'm happy to try
12 to answer them if I can.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: Let me first thank you, again,
14 Harvey, for being here and sharing your thoughts
15 and all of the hard work that you've put in, so
16 far, over many, many years.

17 I do have a couple of questions and I'm sure
18 some other do.

19 MR. RUVIN: Good.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: One thing I would like to ask
21 you is give us three things that you see that the
22 City of Miami -- that this committee can do to help
23 the efforts that you've already started; three
24 things that we can be involved in or push forward
25 as a result of your efforts and your committee's

1 efforts.

2 MR. RUVIN: Well one, certainly, is to
3 correlate your efforts with the County's efforts
4 and the Compact's efforts.

5 You'll get much more mileage that way. You'll
6 learn a lot more and your contribution will go
7 towards a comprehensive solution, not just a
8 solution for what happens with the City of Miami.

9 You know, it -- I think it's brilliant to have
10 Jim, who served as Vice-Chair of both of the tasks
11 forces with the County, on this task force because
12 he can bring a continuing presence of all of that.

13 So, number one, I would say would be to
14 collaborate as you go forward.

15 You know, I guess, the second thing that comes
16 to my mind would be to not let yourselves get
17 beaten down by the naysayers and they are out there
18 and some of them are wonderful people and brilliant
19 people.

20 Hal Wanless, for instance -- I have enormous
21 respect for Hal. He is a brilliant scientist.
22 He's the head of the University of Miami Geological
23 Department -- Geology Department. He chaired the
24 science sub-committee of the first task force.

25 So his findings were, really what fed into the

1 deliberative process of all of the recommendations
2 that came out of the task force -- the first take
3 force on how we could make adaptive changes to our
4 natural systems, to our build environment and
5 changes in our -- in how we deliver health services
6 and economic issues.

7 There is a real coalition in this community.

8 Wayne, I know you're aware. You've been very
9 active in brining business people into the reality.

10 Well, we had the Builder's Association. We
11 had the Latin Builder's Association. We had the
12 Chamber of Commerce. All of them were supporting
13 the recommendations that we made to the task force
14 -- to the county commission when we presented this
15 report.

16 Third -- You know, I'm really -- I'm sure I'm
17 going to think of four or five after I leave here.

18 But, I think, not to be afraid of the numbers.
19 They're going to be high.

20 But, when you look at the facts just keep the
21 alternative -- the cost of inaction, clearly, in
22 the forefront.

23 We've got 6 trillion dollars worth of built
24 environment in this region.

25 So, you know, spending 50 billion dollars or

1 even 100 billion dollars to safeguard that is
2 really a small investment in relative proportion.

3 So, if we keep the cost of inaction -- what it
4 would mean to totally relocate this area, what it
5 would be mean individually to people and their
6 daily cost, I think it's clear that what you're
7 about here is something that has enormous economic
8 positives to it and --

9 You know, I guess to close by saying I'm sure
10 that all of us have taken the time to be involved
11 in this issue share one thing -- probably many
12 things; but, one thing for certain.

13 We love South Florida. It's our home. It's
14 the greatest place on the planet. We've got the
15 greatest climate. We've got wonderful people. We
16 have a vibrant multi-cultural community here. And,
17 it's worth saving.

18 So outside of that, any other questions?

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: I, actually, have another one.

20 MR. RUVIN: Good.

21 CHAIR PATHMAN: I want to take advantage of
22 your being here. So, sorry.

23 You know, you talked about insurance which is
24 something that I've been, kind of, passionate about
25 and I've spoken a lot about it on panels and forums

1 that I've been invited to or quote in the paper
2 and, you know, I see that as the -- really the
3 first cycle of what we're going to have to deal
4 with; because, based upon unscientific data that
5 I've compiled it seems that me that, maybe, in ten
6 or twelve years the Federal Flood Insurance Program
7 may be abandoned except for, maybe, low income
8 areas.

9 As you know it's run by FEMA (Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency). They borrow the
11 money from the treasury. They never pay it back.
12 They're roughly about \$30 billion in the hole, not
13 including this year. And, it's designed to do
14 exactly what you don't want it to do which is
15 encourage development in high risk areas for low
16 cost insurance.

17 So, eventually, you know, I believe that the
18 government will turn over what they're doing with
19 floor insurance to the private sector and that will
20 be a game changer economically.

21 And, I was curious what your thoughts are?

22 MR. RUVIN: Well, you know, that a scenario
23 that's hard to really project.

24 There are going to be winners and losers.

25 Some land may have to be used for catchment

1 area or for water retention.

2 You know, the history of dredge and fill in
3 South Florida, you know, is ingrained; so, some of
4 that is going to happen.

5 In terms of encouraging or discouraging
6 development in certain areas that are naturally
7 populate to develop because of the beauty of being
8 on the shoreline and the whole romance of it,
9 that's going to be part of the discussions as well.

10 And, I think you're correct in your evaluation
11 that there will be some changed there because
12 there's a strong growing intellectual piece here in
13 Congress that's saying, hey, why are we doing this?

14 We're encouraging -- We're, actually,
15 incentivizing exactly what we don't want to
16 incentivize.

17 So there will be changes there, too. There's
18 going to be changes in a lot of things.

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: Without a doubt. Does anybody
20 else from the committee have a question?

21 Tabitha?

22 VICE CHAIR CALE: I actually just have a
23 couple of comments based, both, on the Chair's
24 questions and some of your points that you made.

25 The first is that I was just, really, glad to

1 hear you mention the importance of Everglades
2 restoration and how that's going to play into our
3 ability to adapt to climate change and that
4 overlaps with your point, Mr. Chair, about what
5 will this cost.

6 And, I think there are some overlapping
7 processes that will, potentially, change what the
8 cost of doing certain things are and Everglades
9 restoration is one of those things we're already
10 investing in that's going to have some other
11 benefits that, when we first started this process,
12 we weren't thinking about; like, protecting our
13 drinking water supply, making sure it buys us more
14 time to push back salt water intrusion that we know
15 is coming.

16 So there are these overlapping processes that
17 we want to be aware of and supportive of if they're
18 providing these additional benefits of buying us
19 more time to adapt.

20 And, Everglades restoration, I think, is also
21 really important to pay attention to because a lot
22 of the infrastructure for restoration -- some of it
23 is our flood control infrastructure. A lot of this
24 overlaps and --

25 MR. RUVIN: Sure.

1 VICE CHAIR CALE: -- right now we're seeing a
2 lot of the coastal structures, like the recent --

3 And, just for an example, the recent rain
4 events we had, we know that was, you know, more
5 rain that I think had fallen in a short period of
6 time since they started collecting the records.

7 We had a lot of rain at once; but, we've also
8 got that coupled with sea level rise that's been
9 observed.

10 So, there are some coastal structures that
11 they opened to drain water out to allow some --

12 You know, to relieve some of this flooding in
13 areas --

14 Some of these canals, there are very few exit
15 points for water and they have to close some of
16 these structures at high tide now.

17 So, already, we're dealing with issue with our
18 drainage infrastructure and that is one and the
19 same in a lot of instances with our Everglades
20 restoration infrastructure.

21 And, like you mentioned, there are some areas
22 where, you know, we have these incentives now to
23 build; but, there are also areas that historically
24 were wetlands or should still, potentially, be
25 wetlands and those are not the kind of areas that

1 through zoning we'd want to encourage building.

2 Like, I know there's been some recent efforts
3 for large building proposals outside of the urban
4 development boundary at the county level. And, a
5 lot of those areas will be increasingly vulnerable
6 to sea -- to flooding as we see sea level rise; but
7 then, also, as we start to push more water into the
8 Everglades for restoration.

9 So, I think just making sure we're aware of
10 other things like restoration, we might want to
11 have future presentations on it so we can aware of
12 the benefits it will have to the city. But, things
13 that will, potentially, reduce the cost of other
14 alternatives or make there be less costly
15 adaptation things we might have to implement if
16 there are other strategies that might be, either,
17 more environmentally friendly or less cost -- more
18 cost efficient.

19 So, making sure we're aware of these other
20 things that are going on besides just whatever --
21 You know, not looking at just one single set of
22 recommendations for adaptation.

23 And, -- Yeah. So, that was -- That was my
24 main focus is that.

25 Everglades restoration is something that's

1 really going to help us adapt and to make to the
2 additional point that a lot of the infrastructure
3 for flood control is one and the same or ties into
4 Everglades restoration infrastructure.

5 So, to make sure, maybe in the some future
6 meeting we can have a presentation, maybe, at the
7 same meeting to both show -- you know, here are the
8 coastal structures we're already having problems
9 with that need to be targeted for upgrades; which
10 things are water management district infrastructure
11 versus local city infrastructure that we might be
12 able to have more ability to make recommendation
13 around. And then, just showing how restoration
14 efforts will help.

15 Sorry. That was a little long-winded.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: I think what you're saying is
17 very important and I think it's, unfortunately,
18 lost on the community as a whole about the
19 importance of the Everglades and the restoration.

20 Harvey, do you see -- or Jim -- the county
21 commission ever moving to UDB (Urban Development
22 Boundary); because, it's always challenged and I
23 know recently there's been some challenges and I
24 was curious what your thoughts were.

25 And then, I think Pete you had a question,

1 also.

2 MR. GOMEZ: Well, yeah.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Let Harvey respond to that and
4 then I'll get you. Okay?

5 MR. RUVIN: You know, I serve also a Clerk for
6 the Board of County Commissioners. So, it's --

7 I would just say to you that, you know,
8 clearly, at this point, there's more than enough
9 land for development purposes within the boundary.

10 The county commission turned back some
11 recommendations -- some applications just this last
12 week.

13 I see that as a positive sign. There's more
14 and more saying, hey, let's hold -- let's almost
15 have a moratorium.

16 As a matter of fact, have a moratorium on
17 expanding the urban boundary at least until we have
18 a much clearer picture of where we're going county-
19 wide in terms of sea level rise.

20 That's an issue that never was really utilized
21 before in the whole discussion of the UDB (Urban
22 Development Boundary). But, now it's coming to the
23 forefront.

24 So, I don't know how to answer your question.

25 That's a decision that's based upon seven

1 votes of the county commission and, you know, I
2 can't really comment any further than that on that
3 because of the role that I play there.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: I understand. Pete, you had a
5 question?

6 MR. GOMEZ: Yeah. Well, I --

7 MR. RUVIN: I can tell you, in twenty years, I
8 (indiscernible) a pretty clear attitude about urban
9 sprawl.

10 CHAIR PATHMAN: Right. I know your position.
11 I'm just hoping that collectively the commission,
12 the city and the developers --

13 MR. RUVIN: Well, you know what? I --

14 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- will understand the
15 importance of it.

16 MR. RUVIN: -- will say this. I see the
17 county commission -- Keep in mind they voted for
18 all of these recommendations unanimously. There
19 are several that are very pro-active. Certainly,
20 Rebecca Sosa, who sponsored the creation of the
21 task force.

22 CHAIR PATHMAN: Commissioner Cava I know is
23 also very --

24 MR. RUVIN: Daniella Cava has come in there
25 with both fists pumping and totally energized on

1 this issue and other environmental issues.

2 So, I see -- I don't really see anybody on the
3 commission, right now -- There are a few that are
4 more on that spectrum of the left/right, whatever
5 you want to call it. But, I don't even -- I don't
6 see, even, them standing and saying negative things
7 about climate change, particularly --

8 You know, one of the successes -- Maybe this
9 is something else I could say in terms of what you
10 -- what you should be guided by.

11 Don't get involved in the discussion about
12 climate change in general.

13 There are people out there that somehow don't
14 believe 99 percent of the scientific community when
15 they say that human activity has played a role.

16 But, you know, we don't have to go there;
17 because, sea level rise is a fact. It's not --
18 It's not in our minds because of a computer
19 program. It's trackable. It's measurable. It's a
20 relentless reality that we cannot avoid. And, we
21 don't have to discuss and get into that political
22 -- This is a moral issue and it's clearly an issue
23 that is non-debatable. We have to do something or
24 the consequences are obvious.

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: I think our city leaders

1 foresaw that so they named it the Sea Level Rise
2 Committee.

3 So, that's our mandate and our mantra --

4 MR. RUVIN: Good.

5 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- is to deal with sea level
6 rise.

7 Pete?

8 MR. GOMEZ: Well, first of all. Thank you
9 very much. It's an honor to be hear listening and
10 speaking with you.

11 I think you just told me what to do.

12 My question to you was going to be -- number
13 one is, it's a collaborative effort -- local, state
14 and federal. Just like in my world of mitigation,
15 we deal with the state and the feds all of the time
16 for mitigation efforts for disasters.

17 So my question to you is, how do we navigate
18 the water -- And I think you just told me to --
19 told me -- How do we navigate the waters,
20 politically, with those that are in power --
21 specifically, in Florida, that even refuse to
22 acknowledge the word climate change?

23 Federally, I think we're a little bit better
24 because there is more of an understanding and I
25 think they've brought in more --

1 But here, particularly, this affects us. We
2 are a coastal city. This has greater impact on us
3 than it does in certain parts of the State of
4 Florida.

5 How do we navigate that water to get that
6 leadership to buy into our concerns here?

7 MR. RUVIN: Well, I think -- You know, again,
8 I think you've got to challenge them.

9 You know, you made me think of a little,
10 brief, conversation that I had with our Governor in
11 which I said to him, you know, Governor, you don't
12 have to be a scientist to understand sea level
13 rise; maybe climate change and the implications.
14 He looked at, kind of, funny and I said you took
15 Ninth Grade Science, didn't you? He said, of
16 course. I said, well, that's where I learned that
17 when water warms it expands. And he, kind of,
18 looked at me and smiled and turned away.

19 You know, to some of these people
20 acknowledging this issue, they think they're going
21 to pay a political price for their base.

22 The more we can demonstrate that this is not a
23 political issue -- You know, we have the Pope out
24 there, clearly, making and declaring it a moral
25 issue.

1 Why is the human species here on this planet?

2 Some of us believe that we're here to be a
3 proper monitor and our role is to manage the
4 environment in a way that benefits all life on the
5 planet.

6 So, it's clear that if that's the case then we
7 have -- we have a job to do here and it's not about
8 who's right or wrong.

9 But, once you start talking about -- You know,
10 there are a lot of things that -- You go on some of
11 these web sites -- the Koch brothers web site --
12 and there are pages and pages of data there that
13 make their case. But, it's all misguided and it's
14 all done to make their case rather than to observe
15 what the realities are. But, they avoid the whole
16 issue of sea level rise.

17 MR. GOMEZ: I'm --

18 MR. RUVIN: We should focus on sea level -- As
19 your Chair just said that's the title of your
20 committee. You don't have to get involved, you
21 know, any more than -- The fact is the planet is
22 warming. And, one of the reasons it's warming is
23 because we've entered a feedback loop here --

24 MR. GOMEZ: Uh-huh?

25 MR. RUVIN: -- that as we see more ice melt

1 the earth loses reflective surface.

2 As we lose reflective surface we retain more
3 of the sun's heat and energy that enters our
4 atmosphere. We retain it and that causes more ice
5 to melt which, again, increased the percentage of
6 earth's surface that is absorbent rather than
7 reflective.

8 So, we've got a huge task here and we've
9 already bought decades of impact by what we put up
10 there.

11 Remember the CO2 that left the rear end of the
12 Model-T Fords are still up there gathering heat.

13 And so, we can't avoid a lot of the problems.
14 We're just going to have to adapt to them.

15 MR. GOMEZ: That would -- May I add one more
16 point?

17 CHAIR PATHMAN: Go ahead.

18 MR. GOMEZ: That was my second point. It was
19 we speak of adaptation. In my world of emergency
20 management and emergency response I really don't
21 have much of an ability to prevent things.

22 So, in my world, I have to adapt. We had to
23 adapt on how we're going to respond.

24 So, within your task force recommendations
25 and, maybe, your opinion, has there been

1 recommendations made about providing the support
2 and resources needed for the response personnel
3 that are going to be going; because, every time
4 that I mention it to this committee -- every time I
5 see one of those buildings going up, to me it's
6 another city going up. That's how many residents
7 are in there and it requires -- It's going to
8 require an incredible amount of resources from fire
9 and police, public works, to get those people out,
10 evacuate, all of those things.

11 So, my concern was, is there a recommendation
12 on providing the support, the commitment from the
13 political establishment, to provide the resources
14 to first responders, any emergency responders, on
15 what's needed?

16 MR. RUVIN: That really wasn't within our
17 scope; but, I would agree with you, certainly.

18 Part of planning for the future is to make
19 sure that you have the resources.

20 We're still in hurricane alley.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Yes, sir.

22 MR. RUVIN: One of the impacts -- Clearly, one
23 of the impacts is that we're going to see more
24 ferocious storms in the future.

25 We, somehow, have escaped because of El Niño

1 or because of the shifting super winds and super
2 clouds.

3 But, the earth -- They have been more Category
4 4 storms in the last ten years. We've just been
5 fortunate we haven't gotten them.

6 MR. GOMEZ: Right.

7 M RUVIN: But, our turn is going to come.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Okay.⁷

9 MR. RUVIN: So, clearly, we've got to be
10 prepared for that. And, you know, with your role
11 that's got to be your focus.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Yeah.

13 MR. RUVIN: And as more buildings go up and
14 less roads get built and less -- We're going to see
15 more traffic and the fire trucks and the police
16 cars are going to have to travel on the same roads.
17 So, that's going to have to be factored in some
18 way.

19 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you.

20 MR. RUVIN: Yes.

21 MR. PATHMAN: Jim, do you have a question?

22 MR. MURLEY: Oh. I just wanted to observe
23 that I really -- it really feels funny that Harvey
24 is out there talking to me.

25 MR. RUVIN: Yeah.

1 MR. MURLEY: Usually, he's sitting with you
2 Mr. Chair and I'm giving him a note and he's giving
3 me a note.

4 MR. RUVIN: Mostly, with Jim, I do listen and
5 --

6 MR. MURLEY: So, -- But, you know, Harvey
7 mentioned the importance of thinking about this as
8 Ninth Grade Science terms. What that really draw
9 my attention to is the fact of how important
10 education is to this whole thing and that we
11 really, at the county level through the city, need
12 to engage our school district and make sure that
13 they find a way --

14 They have a lot of bureaucracy. But, I think
15 there are leaders there that would be open to this.

16 They -- I know, when -- during the time that
17 we were sitting as the task force, the school board
18 had successfully gotten the bond issue passed and
19 they were in a massive write up of their
20 expenditure of their resources and they asked
21 Nichole Hefti (phonetic), who was staffed to the
22 task force, to come over and give them a briefing
23 on sea level rise so they could start thinking
24 about the fact that they weren't investing in
25 schools that were going to be, you know, right -- I

1 don't know how - Mast Academy was already done, I
2 think.

3 But, that's just a point that I think they're
4 probably there, Mr. Chair; and that we and others
5 -- We should engage the school district and the
6 private schools to get them talking and teaching so
7 that the next generation, as Harvey mentioned so
8 eloquently, are prepared.

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: I have already contacted and
10 been working with the Miami Children's Museum on
11 this issue because they have an Everglades exhibit
12 there that's going to be updated and I sit on the
13 executive board there.

14 So, they are going to --

15 MR. RUVIN: Ooh, wait.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- go forward with something
17 --

18 MR. RUVIN: Wait. Did you see -- Did you see
19 the project -- the presentation that came from the
20 FIU (Florida International University) agriculture
21 school that was at the Coral Gables Museum.

22 That would be a great thing to put --

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: I was going to comment on that
24 as well. But, FIU also just made a presentation to
25 Gulliver and they're going to do something that

1 they want me to be involved in later in the year,
2 next year, school-wide. This was just only for a
3 certain grade level. But now, they want to take it
4 school-wide in the education process of sea level
5 rise and somewhat climate change.

6 But, the FIU exhibit that you're alluding to
7 is a great exhibit.

8 The biggest problem is that it's sitting in a
9 warehouse because nobody wants to display the
10 exhibit right now; because, it's so massive. So,
11 I've been trying to work with FIU to find a
12 location and we were continuing to work on that; at
13 least, portions of it because it's a great exhibit.

14 MR. RUVIN: Yeah.

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: But, it's just very difficult
16 to display anywhere because it's large and there is
17 just not place, central, to put it.

18 MR. RUVIN: One great value in that kind of a
19 presentation is it shows, to people, that you don't
20 just have to throw your hands up and say we can't
21 win this battle.

22 There is tremendous energy out there;
23 tremendous creativity out there that we can bring
24 in to the process.

25 The schools are a resource for us.

1 CHAIR PATHMAN: Absolutely. And it's
2 something Harvey we will talk about. There are
3 some initiatives that I've already --

4 Is there any quest -- Anybody from the
5 audience that would like to ask Mr. Ruvlin a
6 question on any of the things that he's touched on
7 or spoken about?

8 Okay. Well, seeing none, Harvey, thank you so
9 much.

10 You know, when we have a bigger audience --
11 which this is actually our smallest so far; but,
12 probably because of the holidays, I'd like to
13 invite you back because there are some other things
14 that, you know, we'd like to address with you as we
15 continue to move forward with, you know, what our
16 mandate is.

17 MR. RUVIN: Wayne, you and I are on this
18 journey together. Anytime you need me I'll be
19 there.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: All right. Well, I really
21 appreciate that.

22 I don't know -- I know you, probably, have to
23 go; but, Susy Torriente is going to be here --

24 MR. RUVIN: I was looking --

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- to speak.

1 MR. RUVIN: Where is she?

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: She should be -- Ajani, she's
3 coming; correct?

4 MR. STEWART: Yes. She's coming.

5 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. So, she should be here,
6 you know, in the next ten or fifteen minutes.

7 MR. RUVIN: I wanted to see her. I haven't
8 seen her --

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

10 MR. RUVIN: -- since she left the --

11 CHAIR PATHMAN: Sure. If you go to the
12 microphone, I'm going to limit questions or
13 comments to two minutes, please.

14 MR. GOMEZ: Harvey, Albert Gomez, 33133. What
15 you brought up about the urban development
16 boundary, I thought that, kind of, interesting on
17 how sea level rise applied to that. And, the
18 Assistant Attorney brought up, earlier, the two
19 drafted agreements that you mentioned. One of them
20 is the Pace. And, what I'm -- Power, water and --
21 Well, our water supply, let's say. Sea level rise
22 -- And then, growth and all of these intersecting
23 realities.

24 I studied complex adapted systems. So, the
25 reality that I see if that we use issues like sea

1 level rise -- And, I'm asking you a question. We
2 use issues like sea level rise and they go across
3 all boundaries. But, I notice on certain topics
4 the appetite to address the intersecting
5 vulnerabilities and risk -- you almost just -- you
6 know, hard stop, i.e. power and water consumption
7 and, like, Turkey Point and sea level rise.

8 And, how would, like, sea level rise address
9 the urban development issue? How would sea level
10 rise truly, finally, get past that hurdle and
11 inform the commissions and/or the governing bodies
12 to address that current risk and very large
13 vulnerability that we have?

14 MR. RUVIN: I'm not sure I understand your
15 question.

16 The -- You know, again, I'll point out that
17 usually the cheerleaders for growth, maybe
18 unbridled growth, comes from the construction
19 industry, the business community, that is looking
20 at short term equations.

21 And, you know, with efforts like what Wayne
22 has been doing and what I've been doing and others
23 have been involved in, bringing the leadership of
24 those organizations into this discussion, I think
25 has helped; so that when we're talking about

1 growth, it -- I think the acknowledgement, now, in
2 the leadership, in the business community and the
3 political community, is that this growth had to
4 dovetail with these other concerns and that growth
5 --

6 MR. GOMEZ: And, what I meant --

7 MR. RUVIN: -- pure growth alone is killing us
8 traffic-wise. It's killed us air pollution-wise.
9 It's killing us in so many ways. And, if we don't
10 plan --

11 MR. GOMEZ: I apologize for not synthesizing
12 it. I didn't synthesize it properly, the question.

13 The question was really straight to the issues
14 -- growth was just the reality. But, -- And, it's
15 the answer that people give for the reason why we
16 need something like power or water or X.

17 The real question was sea level rise was
18 brought up as a reason to cut the urban development
19 boundary. There are other risks.

20 Growth is one thing with urban development
21 boundary; but, there are other risks like the
22 population growing, need for power, need for water
23 and those intersecting points.

24 I'm wondering if sea level rise will ever --
25 is the commission -- is the Chief Resilience

1 Officer -- is your task force -- will it ever get
2 to the point where it will inform water and power
3 like it informed the urban development boundary?

4 That's what I'm asking.

5 Sea level rise, it seems to not be addressing
6 that right now; i.e. the COLA. It's on hold; but,
7 it's not been suspended for the explanation of
8 Turkey Point 6 and 7.

9 So, there are a lot of issues that are
10 floating around there that would affect our water
11 consumption and would affect our power. And, sea
12 level rise would also affect that plant.

13 So, I'm wondering, has sea level rise started
14 to address that? Has it been talked about in the
15 commission meetings? Has anybody talked about sea
16 level rise in that?

17 MR. RUVIN: You know, as much as the
18 discussion has occurred, there is still so much
19 more that has to take place.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Right.

21 MR. RUVIN: There is an enormous amount of
22 data that has to be accumulated.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Uh-huh.

24 MR. RUVIN: That's really one of Jim's first
25 jobs. It's to get all the real facts on the table

1 so that they can deal with the realities as they
2 really are as they figure out what the elements of
3 this plan have to be.

4 But, you're talking, I think, more on a
5 philosophical level of how this issue affects other
6 issues and how --

7 And, you know, that's going to be an
8 educational thing. That's going to be a community
9 growth issue. And, it's going to have to be
10 discussed publicly. There are going to be people
11 on the other side of that issue. There are people
12 out there thinking that this -- you know, isn't
13 really happening and we're just here to try to
14 deter growth.

15 Clearly, that's not the case. But, what can I
16 tell you.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Thanks Harvey.

18 CHAIR PATHMAN: My esteemed committee member,
19 Mr. Murley passed me this article, which you may
20 want to get a copy of from him after, which says --

21 MR. RUVIN: Yeah.

22 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- as sea levels rise are
23 coastal and nuclear plants ready. That may answer
24 some of your questions.

25 MR. RUVIN: And that goes to your question,

1 too, of where to place some of these things.

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: Right. Exactly. Well, again,
3 Harvey, thank you so much and we'll be in touch and
4 thank you for being here and sharing your
5 information.

6 MR. RUVIN: Have a good year. I'm glad to be
7 here. Thank you, guys.

8 MR. HABER: Mr. Chair, may I also address
9 Albert's question real quick?

10 CHAIR PATHMAN: Absolutely. Thank you, Matt.
11 Please do.

12 MR. HABER: So the City of Miami is actually a
13 litigant in those proceedings.

14 As you mentioned, the draft Environmental
15 Impact Statement has been delayed by about seven
16 months on both the environmental and the safety
17 review.

18 The current draft does contemplate sea level
19 rise as it could affect the reactors. But, again,
20 this is an Environmental Impact Statement.

21 The proper place for a lot of that analysis
22 would go into safety review which has been
23 significantly delayed.

24 I'll tell you that, right now, the city's
25 position is that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

1 has not done enough.

2 If you'd like to talk in further detail I'd be
3 happy to stay after.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: Thank you, Matt. Thank you
5 for the information.

6 I'd like to now go back to our original agenda
7 which was the -- under new business, discussion of
8 the committee's mandate and goals.

9 I think each of you received a copy of the
10 city's legislation which created this committee and
11 I think it's important for us to have a little bit
12 of a general discussion about what the
13 Commissioners, the Mayors, see this committee doing
14 and what our -- I guess, our mandate is and how we
15 intend to go about it.

16 Now, I think that a lot of what is in here and
17 what we'll discuss now will also be reserved for
18 our workshop. But, I'd like to touch on some of
19 the points while were here.

20 And, unfortunately, we don't have all of our
21 committee members here. So, some of this may be
22 repetitive at our next meeting or at the workshop.

23 But, you'll see at the very top it says to
24 study sea level rise and its effect.

25 So, you know, in essence we should be looking

1 at some of the scientific data that's out there and
2 we should be looking at or inviting speakers to
3 address us on, you know, what is the effect of sea
4 level rise on Miami?

5 I'd like someone, you know, from the committee
6 to -- In essence, I hope at our workshop or even
7 tonight -- We can divide the committee up into some
8 general responsibilities; because, we haven't
9 really done that yet, in connection with all of us
10 that are sitting here.

11 If any of you feel comfortable with what we're
12 going to review tonight on the mandates and wish to
13 take a lead in doing that, you know, that would be
14 very much appreciated; because, I think that we
15 should not just continued to have meetings without
16 direction and without committee reports on what
17 we're doing, which is the mandate of the
18 commission.

19 So, the first one, again, is on the sea level
20 rise and effect on the City of Miami.

21 The other -- The way I would break down -- It
22 says and to recommendation to the commission.

23 So, we have made some recommendations so far
24 in our prior two meetings. They will be included
25 in our annual report that is due -- Is it January

1 15th?

2 MR. STEWART: Yes.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: January 15th. And, Tabitha,
4 as the Vice-Chair, I was going to ask if you would
5 work with me preparing the annual report which
6 we'll discuss at the workshop and then submit it to
7 -- I guess, to our staff and to the City Attorney
8 who will then give it to the commission.

9 Do they intend, at the time that the report is
10 submitted, that any of us should be there for any
11 comments or questions?

12 MR. HABER: I don't believe so.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Would you ask -- find
14 out if that is, in case they do have any questions?

15 MR. HABER: Absolutely.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Great. I'd appreciate
17 that.

18 So, over the next -- The next meeting that we
19 have is on the 11th of January and the report is
20 due on the 15th.

21 So, if there -- Hopefully, there will be some
22 additional recommendations.

23 I'd like the committee to think about things
24 that they think we should be recommending and bring
25 up, so we're very pro-active, that we can try to

1 get into the report on the 15th along with the ones
2 that we've already done which some of you are
3 familiar with.

4 We've talked about insurance. We've talked
5 about mapping. We've talked about emergency
6 response and stuff. So, those will be included.

7 The next issue is talking about incorporating,
8 you know, recommendations by the federal government
9 and Miami-Dade County.

10 I guess you see who, on the committee, I might
11 want to ask about Miami-Dade County.

12 Jim that's you.

13 So, if you could keep us abreast, Jim, of --
14 you know, the county's activities, which again is
15 our mandate here by the commission -- by the Miami
16 Commission, to be cognizant of those issues as well
17 as, maybe, incorporating them or recommending them
18 to the Miami Commission and advising them of what
19 the county is doing.

20 The federal government becomes a little more
21 tricky and I know we don't have anybody here. But,
22 at some point, in the workshop, I'd like to get
23 someone who can, maybe, stay on top of what the --
24 you know, as much as can and maybe work with staff
25 on the federal government requirements.

1 It seem like, Matt, you have a pretty good
2 handle on some of the things. So, I think we'll be
3 looking to you for some advisement and,
4 potentially, leading us in the right direction --
5 initially, whoever might head up that sub-committee
6 of our general committee. If that's okay?

7 MR. HABER: Of course.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. And then, if you look
9 at the -- If you go down to the bottom of page 1,
10 you see where it says to issue the written report
11 to the City Commission.

12 So, again, Tabitha, that's something I'd like
13 to work on with you and get comments from all of
14 the committee members as well, as to what you feel
15 should be in the staff report.

16 So, if you have a chance -- You know, we all
17 get some copies of -- At least, the minutes are
18 voluminous. But, if you've been taking any notes
19 at the meetings or have any questions to ask Ajani
20 or to Matt, our City Attorney, that would be great
21 to get some input from you at the workshop as to
22 what should go in the annual report that we have to
23 prepared before the 15th.

24 And then, finally, on the first page, it says
25 we serve in an advisory capacity.

1 So, I think we all understand what that means.

2 But, it also says that we are to recommend any
3 changes to city policy.

4 And while I think that's a very generic term,
5 I think it's the most important part of the first
6 page because they are asking us for our
7 recommendations.

8 So, I think it's important that we make them
9 and some of them will be difficult like Harvey said
10 tonight. You know, we will be making
11 recommendations that they may not agree with; but,
12 I think it's important for us as a group who have
13 undertaken to be on this committee and have a keen
14 understanding of sea level rise that, you know, we
15 make some in-depth recommendations.

16 Maybe not in the first annual report.

17 I also have a question for you, Matt.

18 The annual report, obviously, is yearly. But,
19 are we allowed to make recommendations -- because,
20 this is -- in number 4 it seems like we can make
21 recommendations more than just in the annual
22 report.

23 Is that true or are we subjected only to once
24 a year?

25 MR. HABER: So, the annual report that's due

1 on January 15th is set out in a code provision.

2 All boards are required to do that.

3 It has particular requirements of what needs
4 to be in that report. But, you are also allowed to
5 add other things to it as you believe is
6 beneficial.

7 CHAIR PATHMAN: So we could -- Would it be
8 like a supplement to the report that we do if we
9 wanted to do something quarterly; that we would,
10 you know, send on to the commission and they can
11 choose whether they wish to follow it or not?

12 But, part of that, too, is we'd like to get
13 some feedback after we make recommendations.

14 Is that possible?

15 MR. HABER: Absolutely.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

17 VICE CHAIR CALE: And Mr. Chair, I had a
18 thought on that.

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Tabitha?

20 VICE CHAIR CALE: So one of the things that I
21 was curious -- and maybe this is something we can
22 discuss further in the workshop or now, even --
23 but, in addition to have the annual report that's
24 mandated; just as you brought up, if there are
25 other recommendations we want to make before then,

1 what reporting mechanism is there to get this
2 information to the County Commission or City
3 Commission?

4 So, I was also wondering if we might be able
5 to think of possible ways we can relay some of the
6 motions we're passing at each meeting more
7 effectively and then any other additional
8 recommendations.

9 So, if there's a way we can, maybe, get this
10 on the agenda every month or every other month for
11 the City Commission to review the motions we're
12 passing; because, my understanding is, right now,
13 they're just getting a copy of the minutes rather
14 than some summary information about the motions
15 that were passed at each meeting.

16 But, perhaps, we could discuss or come to
17 consensus on, maybe, better strategies for
18 conveying our, kind of, results portion of our work
19 to the commissioners.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: Yeah. That's a good point,
21 Tabitha. And, that's why I want to have this
22 workshop; so that we can discuss both among
23 ourselves and also with Matt and Ajani how we can
24 -- you know, see our recommendations actually
25 either being acted on, commented on or whether they

1 have any questions and not just in an annual
2 report.

3 You know, I think that, probably, -- I would
4 guess that the commission doesn't want to hear from
5 us every time they have a meeting. But, if we did
6 something quarterly, at the very least, I think
7 that would be important and we organize it so that
8 it's impactful and somebody will, hopefully, take
9 attention -- You know, they'll look at it.

10 In addition to that, as I said earlier, I'm
11 going to be meeting with commissioners and with
12 staff department heads so I can get an idea of what
13 they expect and we may be, you know, also providing
14 them with information that they may then bring up
15 to the commission.

16 But, that's something, I think, we're going to
17 be able to, kind of, sort out at the workshop and
18 get guidance from our esteemed staff members.

19 Then, on page 2, I just want to discuss under
20 paragraph A-1 -- It talks about the appointment by
21 the commissioners of all of us.

22 Some of you may -- or all of you may be aware
23 or not that we're somewhat term limited and in the
24 next year, starting in April, some of us,
25 technically, our term will have expired and then in

1 May and June.

2 I have talked to both Matt and Ajani about
3 this and felt that at that time (indiscernible) had
4 a year of being an active committee here in the
5 City of Miami and that we seek -- and discuss this
6 at the workshop -- to have this resolution changed
7 or have an ordinance passed that we served similar
8 to other committees in the city where we would have
9 a two year -- minimum two year committee term --
10 two year, potentially, Chairmanship. And then, if
11 you get re-appointed you can be re-appointed up to,
12 maybe, four years or six years like other
13 committees in Miami or other cities.

14 So, we'll get advice from our legal staff
15 about how to do that.

16 I just want to make sure everybody is on board
17 with that and thinks that, you know, if we want to
18 be effective and we actually want to have some, you
19 know, continuity in what we're doing, we need to be
20 together longer.

21 We certainly can't just do -- be together and
22 rotate our seat every five or six months or eight
23 months.

24 So, give that some thought for our upcoming
25 workshop.

1 And, as far as the resolution, those were my
2 only comments. I was wondering if anybody else on
3 the committee had any comments about any of the
4 conditions of the resolution or any of the powers
5 that are addressed here.

6 Go ahead, Jim.

7 MR. MURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
8 noticed in the whereas clause -- It was something I
9 hadn't read. -- there's the statement -- I'm sure
10 -- It's anecdotally correct, I'm sure. But, I
11 would be interested in -- The City abuts the ocean
12 at a considerable length of its borders. I would
13 be interested to get a sense of how much of the
14 city is waterfront, in a sense; because, you have
15 the river and the bay.

16 You know, it's not like we're on the beach.

17 So, our issues aren't sandy beach issues.
18 But, there are -- There is a set of issues that
19 we'll be dealing with that are directly related to
20 bulkheads and softer shoreline activity.

21 And, I think that becomes, sort of, a sub-set,
22 I guess, Mr. Chair, is what I'm thinking and the
23 whereas clause is really what, kind of, caught my
24 attention; because, I hadn't thought about that.

25 So, that's just a thought as we go ahead. It

1 could be fed into the workshop for further
2 discussion by the group. I'd think they'd be
3 interested to know.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: Matt, do you have any comment
5 on that or understand exactly what Jim is saying in
6 terms of looking at the first sentence there, you
7 know, where it says abuts the ocean along a
8 considerable length of its borders?

9 Is that something, Jim, that you want some
10 additional information that, maybe, staff can get,
11 that we can consider at the workshop or do you want
12 to see that fine tuned or --

13 MR. MURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
14 information is always the best place to start.

15 You know, there's an interesting interaction
16 between the county and the cities. It's something
17 that's been around for a long time. Actually, it's
18 called the Shoreline Review Committee.

19 CHAIR PATHMAN: Right.

20 MR. MURLEY: Which is actually a creature of
21 county government; but, exercises joint
22 jurisdiction in the cities.

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: Correct.

24 MR. MURLEY: So -- And then, there is a lot of
25 emphasis, right now, on bay walks and river walks.

1 So there's a -- There's some recreational benefits
2 and things.

3 So, I'm fine taking it into the workshop for
4 discussion and whatever information staff has to
5 share at the time.

6 CHAIR PATHMAN: Would there be anything you
7 would ask staff to get so we would have it for the
8 workshop that you think would be helpful?

9 MR. MURLEY: Well, more factual information, I
10 guess, about -- than this --

11 The city has shorelines. Some of it is
12 publicly owned and some of it is privately owned,
13 which immediately affects the tools you have
14 available. And, the publicly owned stuff, you can
15 be thinking about stuff.

16 I'm very familiar with the river. I do --
17 I've been on the river commission for a long time,
18 which is mostly in the city. And, there are a lot
19 of city parks on the river and then inter-spaced is
20 the private development. And, to make things
21 happen, you've got to work that together.

22 So, my sense is that's probably true on the
23 bay, too; right out front. It's right in front of
24 the City Hall.

25 So, I guess, -- Again, Mr. Chair, I'm reacting

1 because for the first -- I just read the whereas
2 clause for the first time.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: I think it's a good point.

4 I think, though, that if there is anything
5 that you can think of that staff could help us with
6 --

7 MR. STEWART: I'll get with him.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: You know, you can talk to
9 Matt, you know, any time between now and the time
10 that we schedule the workshop.

11 So, the next point of business will be when
12 we're going to have the workshop.

13 MR. STEWART: Yeah.

14 CHAIR PATHMAN: Obviously, we have the
15 holidays coming and our next meeting is on January
16 11th and the annual report is due on the 15th.

17 So, if everybody has a calendar in front of
18 them we might want to look and see, while we're
19 here tonight, because as you know it's hard to
20 communicate with the Sunshine Laws as to everything
21 we want to do -- So, I'm looking in January. If
22 it's possible, the first week of January.

23 Does -- I think -- Ajani can we meet in the
24 staff room that we were meeting in before we were
25 upgraded?

1 MR. STEWART: Yeah. As long as it's
2 available. And it's usually pretty --

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

4 MR. STEWART: -- easy to get compared to the
5 chambers.

6 CHAIR PATHMAN: Very good. Uhm -- How does
7 everybody look on January 7th? And we don't have
8 to start at -- Pete is shaking his head no.

9 MR. GOMEZ: Yeah. I have a -- We're going to
10 have a joint exercise with some folks from Florida
11 State University.

12 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

13 MR. GOMEZ: So, we'll be camping out on Key
14 Biscayne for a couple of days.

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: I would be available for the
16 5th and 6th; but, the 7th is when the Everglades
17 Coalition starts and I know Mr. Murley may also be
18 occupied with that.

19 MR. MURLEY: Yeah.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: Yeah. I'm not available --

21 MR. MURLEY: The 5th and 6th I'm good.

22 CHAIR PATHMAN: The 6th, I could do if we
23 could start, maybe, around 5:00. Does that work?
24 Or, even earlier. What does everybody -- Can we
25 have an earlier meeting? Is that a committed time

1 or does it have to be in the evening?

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm okay on the 6th.

3 MR. STEWART: There is no restraint. I mean,
4 you could do it at noon if you felt like it.

5 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm all right on the 6th. I
7 okay on the 6th.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. So, the 6th. What time
9 works for everybody? Of course, we have other
10 members that are not here?

11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm good all day. I don't
12 have -- I have an open day.

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: All day. Uhm -- We have to
14 have at a place that the public is invited also,
15 correct?

16 MR. HABER: Correct. And, the issue is
17 notice. If we're choosing the week of the 4th, we
18 should have enough time to get a public notice out.

19 And, the other issue would be, is it
20 accessible to the public, physically. So, --

21 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. So, is everybody okay
22 with having it here and, you know, we could try to
23 beat the traffic and -- if everybody is open and --

24 VICE CHAIR CALE: Uh-huh.

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- maybe meet at, like 2:30 or

1 3:00.

2 VICE CHAIR CALE: Uh-huh.

3 MR. MURLEY: Perfect.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: Does that work, 3:00?

5 VICE CHAIR CALE: Yeah.

6 CHAIR PATHMAN: Everybody? Okay.

7 So, Matt, if we could arrange to have our
8 workshop at 3:00 on the 6th -- January 6th -- and,
9 of course, notice the other committee members.

10 But, if we have enough people attending we'll
11 go ahead with that date.

12 Ajani, did you have something you wanted to
13 add?

14 MR. STEWART: No. I was just saying I'll take
15 care of that.

16 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. Very good. Thank you
17 very much.

18 All right. Does anybody else have any
19 comments about the resolution, R15-0072, which
20 created our committee, other than what we'll take
21 up at the workshop?

22 Okay. Seeing none, let's move along with our
23 agenda.

24 We have the illustrious Susy Torriente here
25 from the City of Miami Beach.

1 So, Susy; thank you very much for coming. We
2 don't have as big a turnout tonight as we usually
3 do. But, your words will not fall on deaf ears and
4 we're very happy that you have the opportunity to
5 address us.

6 And, I want to say it's a great addition to
7 the City of Miami Beach to have made the move to
8 hire you and bring into the fold of what's going on
9 in Miami Beach and really, I guess, in our county.

10 I had the pleasure of meeting Susy for the
11 first time in Amsterdam. We were on a trip
12 together. I didn't meet her -- And, you know,
13 immediately, you know, felt that she was extremely
14 qualified and just a wealth of knowledge and a lot
15 of energy.

16 And so, as a long time resident of Miami
17 Beach, I'm glad that you're there to, kind of, lead
18 us to the future of dealing with sea level rise.

19 With that, Susy is going to address us on the
20 issue of the four county Compact which originally
21 took place down in Key West.

22 MS. TORRIENTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
23 members. Good evening. It's nice to see some
24 familiar faces and some new ones and it's a
25 pleasure to be here and it's really nice to be back

1 in Miami-Dade County as well. So, thank you.

2 I did have the opportunity to be at the
3 summit, of course, with the Chairman and
4 Mr. Murley.

5 We had, this year, for the seventh annual
6 summit, 452 people that attended, which was really
7 quite amazing because when we were planning we
8 never thought people would come all the way to Key
9 West and those are the numbers.

10 The summit really continues to grow.

11 Last year it was in Miami-Dade County and that
12 was the record number, 600. And, our first summit
13 back in 2009, was only -- pretty much, a half day
14 summit with about 100 people.

15 So, we're really, definitely, getting the
16 message out.

17 And, I was looking at some of the statistics
18 that were sent out by the staff.

19 Tomorrow we have a summit -- I should say a
20 Compact and a monthly phone call.

21 So, I was able to get some statistics and it
22 seems that next to city and county employees, the
23 largest number of attendees came from the private
24 sector, which was interesting and very telling.

25 So, we had the summit at the beginning of

1 December -- December 1, 2 and 3, in Key West.

2 The theme was Charting the Course and, really,
3 leading by action.

4 And, this is really an opportunity for the
5 Compact and for the members and for everybody in
6 the region to pause and, kind of, take in the
7 accomplishments of the year and wrap things up and
8 then start the planning process again.

9 It was three very full days of activities.

10 The first day were workshops on modeling and
11 innovation showcase of sponsors.

12 So, it was a really neat opportunity to
13 understand some of the more science things and some
14 of the more technology things that are going on.

15 Day two was completely jam packed where we had
16 a nice mix of speakers from -- anywhere from the
17 Navy, because, of course, they have a presence in
18 Key West to talking --

19 We had a very nice and interesting and,
20 perhaps for some of us, a surprising message from
21 Congressman Crubello (phonetic) and he wasn't able
22 to attend. But, he did send a video message and
23 he, actually, did speak on the floor in Congress
24 and recognized that the local leaders were dealing
25 with this issue.

1 And so, it's, kind of, nice to see that both
2 sides of the aisle can come together on this issue
3 when they want to, like we have in South Florida.

4 I had another interesting panel, I thought,
5 with the state representatives. And, of course,
6 they're having a harder time.

7 Representative Jacobs, who, of course, was a
8 founding member of the Compact when she was County
9 Commissioner and County Mayor -- and State Rep Jose
10 Javier Rodriguez --

11 They shared their stories about more of the
12 difficulties of having the climate conversation in
13 Tallahassee.

14 But, they're not stopping, though. They're
15 trying and they're doing what they need to do and
16 maneuvering in their own ways. And, I think, with
17 folks like -- With those two state reps, I think
18 we'll start to make some baby steps in Tallahassee.
19 And, of course, we'll continue to support them.

20 We had people from the White House, of course;
21 the Council on Environmental Quality.

22 We've had federal representation at our
23 summits, really, year to year and that connection
24 continues.

25 I had the opportunity of moderating, probably,

1 one of my favorite panels which is the one where we
2 showcase what cities and counties are doing around
3 the region and it was called Home Port Success
4 Stories and we were able to talk about how
5 different cities are in different phases of
6 planning to action; but, all within the context of
7 the Regional Climate Action Plan and that regional
8 climate framework.

9 So, little by little and more and more, we are
10 actually working together.

11 It's really great to be here in the City of
12 Miami.

13 When I left Miami-Dade, a few years ago, and
14 went up to Broward, there weren't a lot of cities
15 in the mix and Jim will remember how difficult it
16 was when we were producing our first green print.
17 It was really hard to get the cities at the table.

18 But, today, I'm here and it's a pleasure.

19 And, last week I was at the City of Hialeah
20 talking about climate change and they're the newest
21 member of the Dade County municipalities to sign
22 the Mayor's Pledge to support the Compact and the
23 work of the Compact.

24 So, I think we've really come a long way as a
25 Compact in the seven years -- in the seventh

1 celebration, if you will, of our efforts.

2 The Compact -- I'm sorry. The summit ended
3 with a really interesting panel on resilient
4 re-design for the second year in a row, where the
5 counties partner with a city and really, kind of,
6 bring the best and the brightest to look at
7 innovative approaches and, really, out of the box
8 ideas about adaptation.

9 And, I think, that's where we're really
10 pushing us to take us to the next level to do the
11 things that we're doing in Miami Beach to create
12 that city of tomorrow. And, I think that it left
13 us all, kind of, on that high note.

14 The folks that are involved in the Compact --
15 and, of course, Jim can help me out with this -- I
16 think all of us have a real desire and a real --

17 We know that this is a difficult issue. It's,
18 kind of, a long-term problem. But, we can start to
19 deal with it incrementally over time and that's
20 what we're doing as local cities.

21 So, that's really a summary of the events that
22 took place.

23 I'm happy to answer any questions about the
24 summit or about the Compact, in general, if you'd
25 like.

1 So, thank you.

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: Yes. Susy, if you could, sort
3 of, address, maybe, some of the issues in
4 connection with where the does the Compact see
5 itself, you know, over the next five or ten years
6 and how receptive has the resolutions or the acts
7 that the Compact has passed been received --

8 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh?

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- or implemented by any
10 cities here in South Florida that are part of the
11 Compact or the counties?

12 MS. TORRIENTE: I think that the Compact has
13 been quite successful for a couple of different
14 reasons.

15 The Compact is a voluntary collaborative of
16 the four counties. And so, when it was created, we
17 didn't create another governing body or another
18 governing board.

19 The work is done at that staff level,
20 collaboratively. And then, everybody, kind of,
21 goes home and gets their items approved through
22 their own county commissions or city commissions.

23 So, I think that's been very successful.

24 The Compact has evolved and grown.

25 Four years ago, the cities started becoming a

1 member of the staff steering committee. So, in
2 Miami-Dade County, Miami Beach is at the table
3 along with Miami-Dade County.

4 Fort Lauderdale now -- It's not Fort
5 Lauderdale anymore. Now, it's Hollywood.

6 In Palm Beach it's -- I forget who it is.

7 It used to be Boynton Beach and now, I think,
8 it's --

9 MR. MURLEY: Lake Worth.

10 MS. TORRIENTE: Okay. So, it's -- It's
11 evolving.

12 So, four years ago we started adding
13 representatives from the municipalities and now
14 they're starting to rotate the municipalities out.

15 So, every two years, two counties will rotate
16 a municipality in and out and that's in an effort
17 to get more cities involved.

18 So, that's one new development of the Compact.

19 The Compact is, actually, looking at different
20 model where it could, potentially, become a -- some
21 sort of a 501(c)(3) or some sort of an entity that
22 could actually be a fund-raising arm.

23 That's been kicked around because the Compact
24 itself is not an entity like I mentioned. The
25 Compact is really collaboration.

1 So, one of the things that the staff steering
2 committee and the members -- and the county members
3 are looking at is, do we create an entity where we
4 can go for grants and it's actually the Compact and
5 not one of the counties, kind of, being the
6 forefront of that?

7 Another way that it's evolving is --

8 Well, every year we -- the Compact staff
9 steering committee goes into a planning phase right
10 after the summit.

11 We'll be doing that in January.

12 We meet. We, kind of, plan out the year.

13 And, one of the things we'll be talking about
14 this year is the update of the Regional Climate
15 Action Plan.

16 It was first developed back in 2011; but,
17 adopted in 2012.

18 So, it's time to really start looking at the
19 Climate Action Plan and seeing how that can be
20 updated.

21 And, I think, we continue to win over cities;
22 get more cities interested and involved.

23 And to the extent that cities sign onto this
24 Mayor's Pledge, it's not only to support the
25 Compact; but, it's also to say as a city I'm going

1 to align my efforts to the region.

2 And, I think, with the City of Hialeah, just
3 recently, more and more cities will be joining in
4 and supporting.

5 So, I think it continues to grow and I think
6 it's doing it in a very -- I think in a very smart
7 way.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: Does the Compact have an
9 outreach to individual cities?

10 I have relationships with a number of Mayors
11 as a zoning lawyer I appear before many different
12 commissions.

13 But, I find that many of them are totally
14 uninformed that the Compact may even exist or that
15 there is an issue with sea level rise. And, while
16 I attended the Compact and saw representatives, you
17 know, from Miami Beach and some other cities, Miami
18 was not represented --

19 MS. TORRIENTE: Right.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- as far as I know. There
21 were no representatives from the City of Miami.

22 So, I don't know if that's an issue with the
23 City of Miami or is it an issue with the Compact
24 not reaching out, necessarily, to the right people
25 within cities to make sure that they start

1 participating, at least, to the level where they're
2 learning --

3 MS. TORRIENTE: Right.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- and, maybe, want to take a
5 bigger role in the future.

6 So, how can the Compact, you know, deal with
7 that? Or, have they ever thought about that?

8 MS. TORRIENTE: Last year, the Compact created
9 a municipal work group for the first time.

10 So, the work of the Compact is done through
11 the staff steering committee and through these
12 different work groups.

13 Last year we created a municipal work group
14 and we hosted, for first time, a kick-off meeting
15 last summer.

16 And, it was interesting. The outreach was
17 done by the counties and by that lead city.

18 So, at the time, I was in Fort Lauderdale. I
19 partnered with Broward and we did all of the
20 outreach and invited as many cities as possible.

21 We, actually, did -- We held four different
22 meetings in each of the four counties. But, we
23 connected virtually. So, we would have the ability
24 to have a presentation that was a certain message
25 for everybody; but then, we were able to, you know,

1 kind of, gather our thoughts and have the meeting
2 in and of itself in the city or the county.

3 And so, there's going to be another municipal
4 work group meeting in January and I think that, you
5 know, through that network we need to get the word
6 out. But, it's tough.

7 Not everybody had the same resources. Not all
8 cities are the same. Not all cities have the same
9 amount of staff. And, sometimes staff has -- is
10 pulled in different directions.

11 So, -- But, we continue to really get the word
12 out and we do that, now, through this municipal
13 work group and through, of course, the counties
14 themselves.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Mr. Chair, I can resolve that
16 issue. Here's my card. I'm going to be your
17 contact.

18 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

19 MS. TORRIENTE: (Indiscernible).

20 MR. GOMEZ: If it's not me, it will be
21 somebody from my office.

22 VICE CHAIR CALE: Excellent.

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: I was just about say that, you
24 know -- Pete, I'm glad you volunteered. But, you
25 know, maybe to talk to Ajani and see --

1 VICE CHAIR CALE: Yeah.

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- how we can coordinate.

3 I mean, I know Susy is very busy with the City
4 of Miami Beach; but, also wears a hat for the
5 Compact.

6 So, the city -- the city -- Miami -- can
7 actually have a role and start getting involved and
8 understand --

9 Yes, Ajani?

10 MR. STEWART: No. I just wanted you to know
11 both Matt and myself were at the meeting that's in
12 reference to --

13 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay.

14 MR. STEWART: -- the municipal working group.

15 MR. GOMEZ: And if you let me know, I'll make
16 sure the right people get --

17 MS. TORRIENTE: Excellent.

18 MR. GOMEZ: -- notified of the meetings.

19 MS. TORRIENTE: That's perfect. And, I think
20 what's important is not just that the folks that
21 overseeing or a part of sustainability attend; but,
22 we need all of the different departments to be at
23 the table.

24 And so, in a uniform, even better. So, --

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: Pete makes a presence when he

1 walks in. I like that.

2 MS. TORRIENTE: Excellent. Excellent.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: Does anybody else have any
4 questions?

5 MR. MURLEY: I have --

6 CHAIR PATHMAN: Go ahead.

7 MR. MURLEY: Sir -- Mr. Chair, thank you.
8 Susy is, kind of, the prodigal professional for the
9 region.

10 CHAIR PATHMAN: She is.

11 MR. MURLEY: But one of the things she has
12 done very well for the region is she's traveled all
13 over the world to speak in South Africa and France
14 and -- And, that has direct benefits.

15 You know, we have very good connections with
16 the General Consuls in -- that are housed here and
17 that we work cost benefiting from what they've
18 learned in their countries.

19 So, this has a lot of unexpected benefits, I
20 think, from the standpoint of the communities
21 themselves.

22 But, you know, when we have professional staff
23 that are able to get those additional opportunities
24 it's really helpful. And, I think that's one of
25 the things that the Compact, maybe, never knew when

1 it was started would be one of the great rewards
2 that came from it.

3 MS. TORRIENTE: We continue to learn every
4 day.

5 MR. MURLEY: Yeah.

6 MS. TORRIENTE: And, I do think, actually,
7 that with this committee and with Jim at the county
8 and myself at Miami Beach -- I think there is going
9 to be more and more opportunity; because, I know
10 how to wear, now, a city hat and a county hat. I
11 think I understand the city's needs. And, I think
12 we also have a great opportunity to get involvement
13 because of the 100 Resilient Cities application.

14 I see that it's on your agenda today. But, I
15 think that's an amazing opportunity for two cities
16 and the county to work together and then continue
17 to recruit more and more cities.

18 So, we'll have two tools, hopefully, if we're
19 successful and we will be, I'm sure. Of course, a
20 no-brainer. Right?

21 We'll have the Compact as a tool and the 100
22 Resilient Cities network as a tool. And, I think
23 bringing those things together, I think more and
24 more cities will join forces.

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: You know, to that, one, we, as

1 committee would like to, certainly, be more
2 involved in the Compact. In, maybe, shaping it or
3 being involved in hosting it sometime in the
4 future, if the City of Miami sought to do that as
5 it rotates through the various counties.

6 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

7 CHAIR PATHMAN: In addition to that, your
8 other hat, in Miami Beach -- You know, I think it's
9 important for the cities to work together. This is
10 not a city by city issue.

11 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

12 CHAIR PATHMAN: And there are many cities --
13 which I believe there are 36 in Miami-Dade County
14 and only, maybe, four are really active; Hialeah,
15 Coral Gables, Miami and Miami Beach --

16 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

17 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- in understanding or even
18 being able to implement anything to deal with sea
19 level rise.

20 The others, you know, either have no budget or
21 no resources to really understand it and don't even
22 believe they're affected by it.

23 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

24 CHAIR PATHMAN: I know, recently, the Mayor of
25 Pinecrest, who you know also -- They tried to pass

1 an initiative there on dealing with moving the
2 water and sewer and things like that. It was a \$40
3 million proposed budget.

4 They don't have \$40 million.

5 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

6 CHAIR PATHMAN: So, I think the whole
7 initiative, basically, failed.

8 But, there are things that cities can come
9 together and the county and explore that type of
10 initiative together as well as the private sector.

11 I don't believe that sea level rise has to be
12 all doom and gloom. There's a lot of economic
13 opportunity if cities work together.

14 MS. TORRIENTE: Absolutely.

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: That being said, the one thing
16 that I have noticed at all of the Compacts that
17 I've been at is the lack of attendance by business
18 leaders.

19 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

20 CHAIR PATHMAN: You get a lot of business
21 people who have items to sell or are actively
22 involved in dealing with the issue like engineering
23 companies and things like that.

24 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

25 CHAIR PATHMAN: You get administrators and you

1 have some politicians that attend when it's posted
2 in their local community.

3 But, being someone who is very active in the
4 business community, I never see any of my fellow
5 business leaders or any of the people that I
6 represent and have represented over the last thirty
7 years.

8 The Compact, really, needs to focus in on
9 them. And, maybe, when it comes back to Palm Beach
10 or Broward or Miami, to have a session -- not the
11 whole full day; because, you're never going to get
12 the business leaders to come for that --

13 MS. TORRIENTE: Okay.

14 CHAIR PATHMAN: But, a two hour thing; maybe
15 even by invitation, where they come to get a crash
16 course on what this issue is and how it's going to
17 economically effect them.

18 I think that would be something that could be
19 very effective to finally get and wake up the
20 community.

21 And, I'm working on some other things with
22 other organizations like the Miami Beach Chamber to
23 do something with the business community coming up
24 the early part of next year.

25 But, on a more county-wide level, considering

1 the four county Compact, it would be great to see
2 if you took that message back --

3 MS. TORRIENTE: I will.

4 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- you know, to focus -- I'd
5 be happy to help. Because, they are totally
6 missing from the game, --

7 MS. TORRIENTE: Yeah.

8 CHAIR PATHMAN: -- the stakeholders and
9 business community.

10 MS. TORRIENTE: I will definitely take that
11 back to the planning meeting that we're having in
12 January and I would definitely want your support;
13 because, I think you can show how, you know, the
14 business community does have a role to play.

15 CHAIR PATHMAN: They have a huge role to play.

16 MS. TORRIENTE: Yeah.

17 CHAIR PATHMAN: Trust me. They -- I don't
18 think that much of what is being proposed, on any
19 level, will be implemented without them; because,
20 it's not going to all be done through tax dollars
21 and, you know, they write the checks.

22 MS. TORRIENTE: Yeah.

23 CHAIR PATHMAN: So -- Anyhow. Any other
24 questions from anybody? Tabitha?

25 VICE CHAIR CALE: I was just going to add that

1 the idea of bring in, maybe, some background
2 supporter information and giving it -- getting it
3 coordinated with the chamber -- that you mentioned
4 being involved with the City of Miami Beach, the
5 chamber out there. But, I know (indiscernible) is
6 involved in the sustainability committee for the
7 Greater Chamber of Miami and, maybe, there's an
8 opportunity there to provide some kind of joint
9 presentation or information sharing there as well.

10 MS. TORRIENTE: I've worked with her in the
11 past and with the chamber.

12 There was a just a chamber event I was at last
13 month.

14 They do have an active sustainability -- I'm
15 not sure what the committee is called. I'm still
16 trying to, you know, learn new things since I was
17 gone from the county for four years.

18 But, the chambers are a great instrument to
19 get involvement. Absolutely.

20 VICE CHAIR CALE: Yeah. And just to add that
21 I know that the sustainability committee that they
22 do have, periodically has workshops and
23 presentations that they invite their members and
24 other folks from the community to attend.

25 So, that may be a good venue for information

1 sharing and education for business leaders.

2 CHAIR PATHMAN: I am the actual in-coming
3 Chair for the City of Miami Beach Chamber of
4 Commerce.

5 So, I'll be happy to work with you. That's
6 something we could bring up at the -- at our
7 workshop, to try to see how we can incorporate,
8 maybe, some of the major chambers in the county to
9 work together and bring this issue to a forefront.

10 I know that I'm also involved in the City of
11 Miami Chamber. But, it's very dissected at this
12 point.

13 MS. TORRIENTE: Right.

14 CHAIR PATHMAN: So, maybe, we can do something
15 to work together.

16 MS. TORRIENTE: Uh-huh.

17 CHAIR PATHMAN: Does anybody else have any
18 questions? Anybody from the audience?

19 No. Seeing none, thank you very much Susy. I
20 appreciate and keep up the good work.

21 MS. TORRIENTE: Thank you.

22 CHAIR PATHMAN: I look forward to having my
23 streets dry on Miami Beach.

24 MS. TORRIENTE: Thank you. Have a good
25 evening.

1 CHAIR PATHMAN: Thanks a lot, Susy.

2 MR. MURLEY: Thank you, Susy.

3 CHAIR PATHMAN: I don't believe we have a
4 quorum anymore. So, there's obviously no motions
5 we can pass. Correct?

6 And, we're almost at adjournment

7 MR. HABER: Yeah. At this point you just want
8 to adjourn.

9 CHAIR PATHMAN: Okay. That's what I thought.
10 With that, I thank everybody for coming.

11 Since we've lost our quorum, unfortunately, we
12 cannot take up any further business this evening.
13 But, our next meeting is scheduled for January
14 11th. The workshop is scheduled for, now, January
15 6th and it is open to the public.

16 Thank you everybody and have a very happy
17 holiday.

18 (Thereupon, the proceeding was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

:ss.

COUNTY OF BROWARD :

I, NICK BRUENS, certify that I was authorized to and did transcribe the foregoing recorded events.

I do further certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the events as provided to me on the CD taken at the time, place and the date hereinabove set forth.

I do further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel for any of the parties, nor related to any of the parties, nor financially interested in the action.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2016

Nick Bruens

Typist

NBR/IMG

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